

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRENTICE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Prentice School Library

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Erickson at 6:00 PM.

Board members present: Adams, Blomberg, Erickson, Gierman, Gladson, Gruber, Palmquist and Pierson.

Board member Isaacson was absent.

Erickson announced will be interviewing one candidate for the the Administrators position tonight. The questions to be asked are the same as were asked of the 2 interviewees last night. Upon conclusion of the interview the board meeting will convene into closed session.

Erickson introduced Craig Braaten who was a graduate from Rib Lake and currently Principal at Cornell.

Question 1.

What would you like the community and district to know about yourself and your family?

Craig has two children a son and a daughter. His wife is a teacher at Jim Falls. He is 43 years old and has 12 - 14 years left in his career. If he would make a move this would be it. He interviewed for the principal's position here a number of years back.

Question 2.

What attracted you to the Prentice School District? How do you see yourself becoming part of the community?

Beautiful school with an involved community. The culture here is good which is a reflection on the community, Prentice is unique in that sense. They own property with a dwelling on South Harper Lake. They are not against moving to Prentice. His wife would be looking for a teaching position.

Question 3.

This position currently includes other duties such as transportation coordinator. Due to the size of our district many of our staff wear several hats. What, if, any special skills would you be willing to utilize/take on in our district? Examples include: elementary principal, Special Ed director, disciplinarian, bus driver.

Cornell is a many hat district also, he's is currently Athletic Director also. Knows that Prentice is a very large district area wise. Cornell does contract their busing out. Would be willing to go back to school to get special ed certification. Stated as superintendent don't have to have the license.

Question 4.

What is your experience with budgets, grant writing, revenue limit worksheets or other school financial elements? Describe the process you would use to create and manage an annual budget. Not a superintendent right now, a principal. Was awarded 4 of 4 grants written last year. One was a very complicated Federal grant. Don't have budgets for staff. Understands funding and Revenue Limit worksheets.

Question 5.

The board desires a candidate with strong leadership and communication skills while also being able to take constructive feedback. How would you rate yourself in these areas or what is your leadership style?

Would do a bimonthly report to board members and anyone in the district needing to know. Takes constructive feedback, usually doesn't get much of that. Don't hold a lot of formal staff meetings but do get together. He greets students as they come into school every morning. Creates an agenda for his staff meetings which are productive. After agenda items are covered they discuss what ever is wanted.

Question 6.

In light of the current budget deficit and impending operating referendum, what are some examples of ways you would plan to increase funding and reduce spending, especially if the referendum fails to pass?

Increasing funding is not as easy as it sounds. Grant writing is is not an easy route either. Asked what services do you purchase from CESA? Sometimes better if you can do yourself. By nature he is a conservative person.

Asked by Craig was, What is on the table for cuts? He knows transportation is a big thing here. For example at Cornell the band teacher is also the chorus teacher. Their student numbers have been decreasing as well, hopes they have stabilized. Their teachers do a lot of wearing multiple hats.

Question 7.

(STAFF) The community and staff are more likely to trust new leadership that is transparent. What specific policies, practices, or procedures would you implement to establish trust and transparency.

Their student handbook is changeable without board policy. Have to look at our policies to understand them. Hopes that he comes off genuine and approachable. Wouldn't ask anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself.

Question 8.

(STAFF) Fostering a collaborative climate and culture is important to the teaching staff. Give specific examples of how you have fostered a spirit of collaboration in your past positions or practices you would implement here in order to foster a spirit of collaboration in our school district.

He's a sports guy by nature it's a big part of his life. He has been involved in co-op programs. Helped setup the weight room, started a school store, painted the commons area. Has been working on rebranding the school.

Question 9.

(COMMUNITY) Do you have a procedure to ensure staff are following protocols and meeting expectations? How might you handle employees that need to be disciplined? When do you think an employee's actions should be made aware to the board?

Currently does observations on all staff members twice a year. 1 - 2 times per year meets with the board in closed session talking about staff. If improvement plans are needed they are developed. He has never non renewed anyone in the district. He has hired staff. Discipline wise has never had to write anyone up.

Question 10.

(COMMUNITY) What do you feel is the administrator's role in supporting special education the district, and can you please describe any experience you have in working with special education staff to ensure compliance and quality programming?

Don't have a lot of experience in that area, does understand the IEP's. Their school psychologist deals a lot with that. Leaves some of that up to the experts in the field, relies somewhat on CESA.

Question 11.

Do you have any questions for us?

Really don't have any questions have talked quite a bit in the past.

Thanked the board for the opportunity to interview.

The interview concluded at 6:42 PM.

Erickson relayed to the audience that the board would now be convening into closed session.

Motion Gierman, second Gladson to Convene to closed session pursuant to Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1) (c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction to discuss personnel. In particular, to address district administrator candidates.

Roll Call Vote:

Blomberg, yes - Gruber, yes - Gladson, yes - Palmquist, yes - Erickson, yes - Gierman, yes - Adams, yes - Pierson, yes. All yes votes convened into closed session at 6:44 PM.

The meeting moved back to open session at 7:41 PM.

Motion Gruber, second Gladson to reinterview all three candidates on an individual basis in closed session. Carried

Motion Blomberg, second Gruber to adjourn. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrell E. Pierson, Board of Education Clerk